

Pashuri, the tigress, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bengal tigress wounded in a hunter's trap in the Sundarbans died on Wednesday.

Forest officials rescued her from a village beside the forest in Khulna on February 7 and brought it to Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur the next day.

On February 9, veterinary surgeons conducted a five-hour long surgery to save her forelimb as a vein had been torn and the wound had become infected.

The tigress, which acquired a new name, Pashuri, after it was brought to the park, had stopped eating since February 15, said the officials.

Pashuri died on Wednesday and it was buried at the park on Thursday.

"We tried our level best to keep her alive. But further infection occurred after the surgery," said Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, forest conservator at wildlife and nature conservation circle under the Department of Forest.

"She became more ferocious and was not ready to take treatment any-

more. She stopped eating and died," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Pashuri bit off the stitches in her wound as there might have been irritation, he added.

Dr Mizanur Rahman, the veterinary surgeon, came to the park for a second time but he did not tranquilise Pashuri for a surgery as she became very weak, said Tapan Kumar Dey.

Before burying her, Pashuri was skinned and its organs were sent to the central lab for preparing the viscera report, Tapan said.

Pashuri was first noticed by a tourist on January 27 in Lawdope village of Chandpai range in the Sundarbans.

The tourist snapped a picture of the tigress limping away beside the Dangmari creek, and the photo was published in The Daily Star on January 31.

Since then the forest department had been trying to catch her. They fashioned a wooden cage 12 feet long and three and a half feet wide.

Using a goat as bait, the officials managed to cage her on February 7.



PHOTO: FILE

Tigress Pashuri died on Wednesday. The photo was taken on February 8 at Gazipur Safari Park.

Dhaka getting awful getup

FROM PAGE 1

view and read those in the middle of an extremely busy road.

According to Mubasshar, "Such beautification does not demonstrate any sense of aesthetics and technical competence, nor is it relevant to the spirit of the cricket world cup tournament."

The city corporation should have awarded the sensitive job through a competitive process, as people do not know how competent the advertising firms were for such a large-scale facelift, he said.

Prof Md Shamsul Hoque of transport engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology said this kind of structures on central reservations may distract drivers raising chances for accidents.

Mamoon Murshed Chowdhury, assistant general secretary of IAB, termed the initiative tasteless and devoid of aesthetic standard.

"It is like showing dirty linen to the public and giving the impression that the country lacks educated people," he said.

For a country with warm and humid weather like Bangladesh, plantation and greenery would be the best suitable elements for beautification, he suggested.

Noted artist Hashem Khan said aesthetic sense is the foremost concern in beautification and it can be achieved by involving landscape architects, historians, urban planners and painters.

IAB president Abu Sayeed M Ahmed in a press release on Wednesday demanded the government immediately stop the facelift and call for an advisory body comprising representatives from professional bodies, Institute of Fine Arts, urban designers and landscape architects.

Capt Bipan Kumar Saha, DNCC waste management and beautification officer, said the city corporation along with the advertising firms had prepared the do-up design.

Asked why they had uprooted the plants and saplings in the name of beautification, he claimed that those had recently been chopped down by miscreants.

"We are proceeding with the work as we feel appropriate," said Bipan, adding, "I am not supposed to answer all your questions. You can report whatever you wish."

Abaib Monsur, chief executive of Vinyl World Group, said their sister concern Shishir Bindu Media Production had prepared the beautification design along with filmmakers and engineers.

It would display images of national heroes, archaeological sites and historical events on stones and there would be some imported plants alongside commercial advertisement, he said.

On their experience, Abaib said they had so far beautified some central reservations in Sylhet and built a lotus sculpture at Jahangirnagar University. However, they mainly do interior design and outdoor advertisement, he added.

Three months ago, the DNCC inked a five-year contract with Vinyl for the city facelift.

Abaib said Vinyl would require Tk 3 crore for its part of the job while the other firms around Tk 1.5 crore.

11 rescued weeks

FROM PAGE 1

The building was guarded by three other Myanmar nationals in their 40s whom the police rounded up.

Law enforcers said the rescued foreigners were victims of a human trafficking syndicate comprising Malaysians and Myanmar. Police were on the hunt for the mastermind.

One of the victims from Myanmar told police that he had entered the country nine days ago. His family had to pay RM 2,000 to the syndicate before he could be taken to work at a construction site.

Penang police last month also rescued 35 Bangladeshis, believed to have been victims of a Myanmar-based human trafficking syndicate, reported another Malaysian newspaper New Straits Times. Cops arrested seven Myanmar nationals, including two women, for their involvement in the incident.

A probe by the Penang CID found that the Bangladeshis had entered the country through the Malaysia-

Thailand border in Padang Besar, Perlis.

The Myanmar nationals had smuggled the Bangladeshis into Malaysia and had been keeping the victims in a house before selling them to their clients.

Talking to The Daily Star, an official of Tenaganita, a Malaysian NGO working for women, refugees and migrants, said they had information about a good number of Bangladeshi victims being trafficked by trafficking gangs composed of Bangladeshis, Myanmar and Malaysians.

Many of the victims were compelled into forced labour in Malaysia, she added.

Asked about the fate of the rescued Bangladeshis, labour counsellor Mantu Kumar Biswas said some of the victims are deported after primary investigation, while some others are sent to detention centres for further probe.

In Malaysia, human trafficking is a criminal offence which is punishable by different jail terms, he added.

Zero tolerance on terrorism

Bangladesh reiterates

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would continue its zero tolerance policy on terrorism, extremism and militancy, said the foreign secretary at a meeting in Washington DC on Thursday.

"Bangladesh would continue to proactively engage with all international efforts to counter terrorism and extremism nationally and globally ...," Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said while addressing the Second Steering Group Meeting of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

He claimed that over the last four years Bangladesh had made great strides in strengthening its national legislative and institutional framework to meet global standards to prevent terrorism and financing of terrorism.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Putting

FROM PAGE 16

It runs on Android Version 4.1, also known as Jellybean, and Ideum is additionally working on a dual-boot table that will run Android and Windows 8.

Elsewhere, the table has a full HD 1080p screen fitted with chemically-strengthened glass, and comes with a IP54 waterproof rating, meaning it can withstand small spills from food and liquids.

The table is powered by an Intel i7 3.7GHz Hyper-threaded Quad Core Processor, 16GB of RAM as well as a 500GB hard drive.

The device can be used to play games, and use apps, and because it's Bluetooth and Wi-Fi-enabled, it can be used to wirelessly connect and control other smart devices in the home such as lights, TV and more.

The table's pedestal is made from aluminium.

The Ideum tables are not the first high-tech furniture. A UK-based technology firm recently teamed up with a range of high-tech manufacturers to fit out a London house with gadgets.

These included iPads in the walls,

Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1

charge as a polling official. I will then discharge my duties not as a Jamaat leader."

Nuruzzaman could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.

Abul Kasem, general secretary of Pekua AL, said they filed a complaint with the returning officer over the appointments.

AL-backed chairman candidate Wahidur Rahman alleged at least 48 BNP-Jamaat leaders were appointed as polling officials in Pekua.

He claimed that UNO Mir Shawkat Hossain, also the assistant returning officer, appointed the BNP-Jamaat leaders on instructions of a senior BNP leader.

But Shawkat said, "We sought names for polling officials from educational institutions and we picked the names from the list provided by the institutions."

He added they would cancel the appointments of those involved in politics.

Returning Officer Abdul Hossain said they were looking into the allegation. "We will exclude those having political affiliations."

5 war crimes cases

FROM PAGE 16

The cases against Jamaat leaders ATM Azharul Islam, Abdus Sobhan, BNP leader Zahid Hossain Khokon and Mobarak Hossain are also pending with the tribunal. Besides, several petitions regarding contempt of court are also pending.

The day Justice Kabir retired, former state minister for law Quamrul Islam said the tribunal would be reconstituted soon.

On January 17, newly-appointed Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government was looking for a judge, who would be able to keep the trial up to the international standards.

Two weeks later, he said the ICT-1 would get the new chairman within a week. On Wednesday, he hoped that the tribunal would get the new chairman within a day or two.

He cited the "official procedure" as the reason behind the delay in appointing the chairman.

"We are aggrieved. Why is it taking so much time? It is not clear to us," said Shahriar Kabir, executive president of Ektattor Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee that has been campaigning for the war crimes trial for the last two decades.

"The government is showing a little bit reluctance over the war crimes trial after the January 5 election," Shahriar, a witness in a war crimes case, said on Wednesday.

Like the whole nation, the prosecution is also frustrated over the matter, Rana Dasgupta, a senior member of the prosecution team, said recently. The delay in the trial procedure goes against people's expectation, he added.

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz said the government should have had a plan

to appoint a judge since the retirement of Justice Kabir was scheduled.

Shyamoly Nasrin Chaudhury, widow of martyred intellectual Alim Chaudhury and a prosecution witness, hoped that the government would appoint a judge soon to end the stalemate.

Tajul Islam, a senior member of the defence, recently said the government had expedited or delayed the trial process when deemed necessary. "We think the government has not appointed the chairman due to political reasons."

Abdul Hannan Khan, the coordinator of the investigation agency that is now probing 10 cases, said the delay in recruiting a judge not only held back the trial proceedings, but also had a negative impact on the activities of the agency.

Nation pays tributes

FROM PAGE 1

"Placing wreaths is symbolic and it gives our emotion a way out. The language movement was the foundation of our struggle for independence," said ABM Harunur Rashid, a businessman who brought along his six-year-old son Imran to the Shaheed Minar.

He thinks it is important that parents introduce their children to the value of mother language, culture and the history of the land at a very early age.

"However, it is sad that many parents, especially those in the cities, focus more on having their children become good in English," said Smaranika Lopa, a third-year student of Dhaka National Medical College.

Even the educated and the youth consider that being able to speak good English, rather than Bangla, is cool, she said, adding that she had nothing against English but negligence to mother tongue was deplorable to her.

"We must know our history. If some brave sons of the soil can sacrifice their lives for the mother tongue why can't we love and do something good for the country," said university student Tonmoy.

"February 21 unites all Bangladeshis against petty interests and communalism," he said as his eyes were flashing in pride with the song "Amar bhaiyer rokte rangano ekushe February ..." playing on loud speakers at the Shaheed Minar.

On this day in 1952, students and people from all strata took to the streets of Dhaka, violating restriction on gatherings, to protest the then Pakistan government's refusal to recognise Bangla as one of the state languages. The government wanted to impose Urdu as the only official language.

Police firing on the demonstration that day killed Salam, Barkat, Rafique, Jabbar and a few brave others. The Pakistan government declared Bangla as one of the state languages on February 29, 1956.

On November 17, 1999, the Unesco declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day which has since been observed globally to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education and raise awareness about cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

February 21 is a public holiday in Bangladesh when the national flag is hoisted half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous and private organisations. Television channels broadcast special programmes and newspapers bring out supplements on the occasion.

The foreigners living in Bangladesh

too observed the day with special significance. Many of them thronged the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to pay tribute to the language martyrs.

Min-Jung Park, a Korean language teacher at the Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University, is one of them.

"The day is special to us too. We salute the language martyrs," she said, adding that the Koreans too were subject to Japanese lingual hegemony during the colonial period.

There are dozens of indigenous communities in Bangladesh who share the similar feelings.

"I don't differentiate Bangla and my mother tongue Achik, because we learned both the languages from childhood," said Salgi Mree, a Garo youth studying English literature at a private university.

He also said there were many Garos and other indigenous communities who to some extent remain detached from Bangla and therefore face problem in studies.

"Introducing textbooks in Achik language is hence important for the Garo community," said Salgi.

Meanwhile, regrettably there are a significant number of children who do not know why this day is so important to the nation and what happened that day. This is because either they did not have the chance to go to school or

their environment kept them uninterested about their history.

Fourteen-year-old Sagar Mia never had the chance to go to school and was found selling flowers at the Shaheed Minar yesterday. He works at a shop in Sylhet and comes to Dhaka to sell flowers on special days like the Ekushey February and Pahela Baishakh.

Sagar knows mother language day as the Independence Day.

Asked if he felt bad that he never went to school, he gave a shameful awkward look and said "no" with a deep sigh.

Kolkata

FROM PAGE 16

within the premises of Rabindra Sadan auditorium," West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told a programme to commemorate the February 21 International Mother Language Day in Kolkata yesterday.

The Rabindra Sadan complex is a cultural landmark in central Kolkata.

Mamata said, "We love and respect all tongues. This we have learned from Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore who made a mention of so many languages in the [Indian] national anthem."

There are students in the state who study in Urdu and Hindi. "We love all the languages," she added.

Investigators

FROM PAGE 16

Majhipara of Tangail town around 2:00am Tuesday. During a press briefing at the Rab headquarters later in the day, he admitted circulating the clip through his Facebook page and blogs.

The youth was quizzed by police after a local court on Wednesday put him on a 10-day remand in a case filed under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

ASP Hasibul Alam told our district correspondent yesterday that during interrogation, Rasel gave them some important information. He, however, would not disclose it now.

Contacted, Rab Director General Mukhlesur Rahman said intelligence agencies were trying to find out the first upload point of the message for verifying its authenticity and to identify the persons behind it.

"The authorities of sites like Google and Yahoo can provide us information about the first upload point of the message," he said.

"Intelligence agencies have asked the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to gather information from them [Google and Yahoo]."

Mukhlesur added the probe would take time. "Primarily it has been learnt that two web sites -- one based in Pakistan and the other in the US -- uploaded the message."